



GARLICK HARRISON & MARKISON  
P.O. BOX 160727  
AUSTIN TX 78716-0727

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**SEP 30 2008**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of	:
Joseph B. Rowlands	:
Application No. 10/685136	: DECISION ON PETITION
Filing or 371(c) Date: 10/14/2003	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND (a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. BP3247	:

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3), filed July 18, 2008, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 119(e) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed Amendment. The petition is properly treated under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6).

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not satisfy item (1) above.

The reference to add the above-noted, prior-filed applications on page one following the first sentence of the specification is not acceptable as drafted since it improperly incorporates by reference prior-filed application 10/269,922. An incorporation by

reference statement added after an application's filing date is not effective because no new matter can be added to an application after its filing date (*see* 35 U.S.C. § 132(a)). If an incorporation by reference statement is included in an amendment to the specification to add a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 after the filing date of the application, the amendment would not be proper. When a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is submitted after the filing of an application, the reference to the prior application cannot include an incorporation by reference statement of the prior application. *See Dart Industries v. Banner*, 636 F.2d 684, 207 USPQ 273 (C.A.D.C. 1980). *Note* MPEP §§ 201.06(c) and 608.04(b).

Before the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) can be granted, a renewed petition and either an Application Data Sheet or a substitute amendment (complying with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121 and 37 CFR 1.76(b)(5)) to correct the above matters are required.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:                      Mail Stop PETITIONS  
                                    Director for Patents  
                                    Post Office Box 1450  
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                                    Randolph Building  
                                    401 Dulany Street  
                                    Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax:                        (571) 273-8300  
                                    ATTN: Office of Petitions

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Derek Woods at (571) 272-3232.



Anthony Knight  
Supervisor  
Office of Petitions